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INTRODUCTION:

BLACK BRITISH LITERATURE

Black British Literature became current in the 1970s. It was designed to describe writing by authors based in Britain but with origins in former British colonies in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. It was at that time a political rather than a purely racial label, pointing to a common experience of postcolonial migration, alienation, and discrimination, combined with an oblique yet potentially subversive assertion of attachment to Britain.

Black British Literature deals with the situation of those who came from former colonies and their descendants. It explores effects of migration and displacement onto subsequent generations; the combination of different aesthetic traditions and the interdependence of distinct cultural territories. Black British writers discover the vexed issue of identity (personal, cultural, ethnic, national identity); phenomena of intermixture and cultural hybridity; cultural difference and the notorious problem of racism; the processes of cultural change, of creating new spaces, of transformation.

It is often assumed that 'black British literature' refers to a literary tradition which developed only after the Second World War, in the wake of the arrival of the Empire Windrush, the ship that in 1948 brought Jamaican immigrants to London and was therefore assumed to be the starting point of the black presence in Britain. It may be convenient to give a literary tradition such a precise starting point, but it should not be forgotten that there had been a sizeable body of texts pre-dating the work of pioneer figures like Samuel Selvon or George Lamming, two writers from the Caribbean who started to publish after their arrival in London in 1950, and had a major impact on the subsequent generations of writers coming from the former empire. An exclusive focus on this post-war period obliterates black contributions to British literature from earlier generations – such as Olaudah Equiano and Mary Seacole.

MULTICULTURALISM

Multiculturalism is a global phenomenon. It is the product of 20th century acceleration of movement between people and cultures. Although multiculturalism is often discussed in the context of the particular American experience as the recognition of people of different cultural backgrounds and identities, international multiculturalism reflects a more widespread search for recognition of people's particular experiences within a larger shared, and often adopted, community. It is not limited with the American's experience as it is a global phenomenon. It spread all over the world in U.K. Asia, Africa from each and every continent. No corners of the world remain without multiculturalism. Multiculturalism offers insight into the ways in which cultures transform our identities. Influenced by factors such as nationality, gender, sexual identity, class, religion, and race, cultural experiences reinforce our lives like the roots of a tree. Trees can be replanted in the new soil, but the new earth does not always offer the same sustenance as old, and the roots may struggle to secure the trees as strongly as before. Immigrants to bring their own cultural experiences with them to their adopted country, yet retaining and perpetuating those experiences often involves new challenges, and the sense of displacement and loss that often accompanies the journey is not always easily overcome.

Multiculturalism remains intact since the migrations have been pouring across the globe persistently. Multiculturalism has come to stay, not to break from those who adopt it. This perspective, in the present global scenario is deep rooted in various countries. The concept surfaced in the latter half of the twentieth century. The political demand from the ethnic minorities is one of the causes for the emergence of multiculturalism. Ethnicity refers to a people or nation. An ethnic group is a self-conscious collection of people either unified or intimately related by shared experiences and common interests. Ethnic response deals with the interaction between the two groups or societies. The ethnic group does not pertain to a race as believed by some section of society. Due to the persistent inflow of migration across the countries, there is a need to expand permanent relationships among ethnic and religious communities. Thus multiculturalism may be defined as

> "reaching out both the native-born and newcomers, in developing lasting relationships among ethnic and religious communities. It encourages these communities to participate fully in society by enhancing their level of economic, social and cultural integration into the host cultures" (Maria Helena Lima 56-57).

DIASPORIC LITERATURE

Diasporic Literature is a very vast concept and an umbrella term that includes in it all those literary works written by the authors outside their native country, but these works are associated with native culture and background. Diasporic Literature deals with alienation, displacement, existential rootless, nostalgia quest of identity. It also addresses issues related to amalgamation or disintegration of cultures. It reflects the immigrant experience that comes out of the immigrant settlement.

Andrea Levy, Caryl Philips, Michelle Cliff, Zadie Smith, Hanif Kureshi, Meera Syal, Graham Swifts and Ian McEwans are the Post-Colonial writers from British societies. All of them explore the experience of Britain through a West Indian perspective which offers a different point of view on the British society. Of course, these writers are very different from those of the post-colonial group: while most black authors write novels that introduce characters issued from different ethnic groups living in Great Britain, more mainstream writers do not usually directly treat the problem of multiculturalism.

Andrea Levy: Life and Works:-

Andrea Levy was born in London in 1956, living in North London. In 1948, Andrea Levy's father sailed from Jamaica to England on the Empire Windrush ship and her mother joined him soon after. Andrea was born in London in 1956, growing up black in what was still a very white England. This experience has given her a complex perspective on the country of her birth. Levy experienced the transitional years when white Britain came to acknowledge its multiracial identity, coinciding with a period of racial unrest. About two years after her birth, in 1958, the Notting Hill riots broke out; she was on the cusp of

adolescence when Enoch Powell gave his infamous "Rivers of Blood Speech" in 1968; in Levy's twenties, the 1981 Brixton riots took place.

Andrea Levy did not begin writing until she was in her mid-thirties. At that time there was little written about the black British experience in Britian. After attending writing workshops, Andrea Levy began to write the novels and short stories that she, as a young woman, had always wanted to read – entertaining novels that reflect the experiences of black Britons that look closely and perceptively at Britain and its changing population and at the intimacies that bind British history with that of the Caribbean. In her first three novels she explored - from different perspectives - the problems faced by black British-born children of Jamaican emigrants.

In her first novel, the semi-autobiographical *Every Light in the House Burnin' (1994),* the story is of a Jamaican family living in London in the 1960s.

Never Far from Nowhere (1996), her second, is set during the 1970s and tells the story of two very different sisters living on a London council estate. She has been a recipient of an Arts Council Award and her second novel *Never far from Nowhere* was long listed for the Orange Prize.

In *Fruit of the Lemon (1999),* Faith Jackson, a young black woman, visits Jamaica after suffering a nervous breakdown and discovers a previously unknown personal history.

In her fourth novel *Small Island* (2004) Levy examines the experiences of those of her father's generation who returned to Britain after being in the RAF during the Second World War. But more than just the story of the Jamaicans who came looking for a new life in the Mother Country, she explores the adjustments and problems faced by the English people whom those Jamaicans came to live amongst. Immigration changes everyone's lives and in *Small Island* Levy examines not only the conflicts of two cultures thrown together after a terrible war, but also the kindness and strength people can show to each other. The Second World War was a great catalyst that has led to the multi-cultural society Britain has become. *Small Island* was the winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction, the Whitbread Novel Award, the Orange Best of the Best, and the Commonwealth Writer's Prize.

For Andrea Levy acknowledging the role played by all sides in this change is an important part of understanding the process so we can go on to create a better future together In her latest novel, *The Long Song (2010),* Levy goes further back to the origins of that intimacy between Britain and the Caribbean. The book is set in early 19th century Jamaica during the last years of slavery and the period immediately after emancipation. It is the story of July, a house slave on a sugar plantation named Amity. The story is narrated by the character of July herself, now an old woman, looking back upon her eventful life.

Andrea Levy is a Londoner. She not only lives and works in the city she loves but has used London as the setting in many of her novels. Besides novels she has also written short stories that have been read on radio, published in newspapers and anthologised. In her *Six Stories and an Essay (2014),* Andrea Levy's characters give voices to people who may not normally be represented in literature - we have the soldiers from Jamaica who serve the British Army in WWI but then are dismissed for their heroic actions and are treated like second class citizens. The Immigration experience is explored on both sides - from the people who move to England and in *Loose Change*. She explores the behaviour of the offspring of immigrants and way they see immigrants.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Andrea Levy explores migrant's perspective – shared experience involved negotiation and re-definition of identity, roots, belonging, negotiation of approach to the new country. Andrea Levy employs Afro-Caribbean in British society in the second half of the 20th century, shared experience – racism, discrimination, prejudices in her works, considering the reviews available, her fictionrarely brought into the limelight in the research papers. Research papers focused on centering marginality through Black British Narratives, representing third spaces in Contemporary British Literature with the works of Zadie Smith and Monica Ali. The researcher has scope to explore different aspects of Andrea Levy's fiction like racism, slavery, national identity, postcolonial cultural hybridity.

There is no comprehensive study done on her fiction, therefore the researcher has undertaken the task of doing study of the fiction.

So, the proposed work of research will be focused on the application of multi-ethnic Britain in 20th century to explore hidden objectives of the novelist. The research work will involve close reading of the select fiction. To aid the research the researcher intends to go through the relevant literature – published books, articles, reviews etc. – mentioned in the bibliography and webliography.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Andrea Levy, British-Caribbean author, explores both her own roots, and more broadly, considers the effects of Caribbean migration on British identity. West Indian experience in Britain can be linked to diasporas throughout the world. Andrea Levy engages in writing in order to fight prejudice, discrimination and stereotype while she exposes hypocrisy of the mainstream society. Such writing gives space to intercultural interaction and it is an interesting journey that involves three continents, multiple identities and hybrid Britishness.

SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH STUDY:

My primary goal in this thesis is to analyse the effects of immigration from the former British Empire specifically focusing on West Indian immigration to Britain, and how it contributed to this re-evaluation and re-definition of British society. Main aim is to establish recurring themes of Afro-Caribbean experience in Britain in the second half of the twentieth century. While the Caribbean area is extremely diverse in many respects, many West Indians in Britain had very similar experiences as a result of a social climate that put stress on differentiation among people on the basis of their skin colour. Such *sharyed* experience included overt and covert racism, discrimination, burgeoning and strengthening of prejudices and stereotypes (often based on myth or popular representation). From a migrant´s perspective, such shared experience involved negotiation and re-definition of identity, roots, belonging, negotiation of approach to the new country – whether it was

assimilation, integration or more recent acknowledgement of hybridity and generational change.

Andrea Levy is a twentieth century Black British writer. Some reviews, articles and books have discussed Levy and her fictional world. Many critics have written on the literary works of Andrea Levy. However the research has not come across the study of multiculturalism as wholly focused in Andrea Levy's fiction. To bridge this research lacuna the present research work is undertaken. It will definitely add a significant perspective to the fiction of Andrea Levy. She attempts to depict multicultural aspects through her fiction.

The chosen concepts and themes are based on the fiction by Andrea Levy and secondary sources are applied in order to analyze and deconstruct the recurring experiences and establish the link between the fiction and the theoretical approaches to the concepts and themes.

OBJECTIVES:

The present thesis aimed to analyse the above mentioned six fiction of Andrea Levy with multicultural perspective. The objectives of the study as follows:

1) To study Black British Literature, its history and development.
2) To study different elements existing in Post- Colonial Literature.
3) To study the fiction of Andrea Levy and find out different aspects of multiculturalism in her works.
4) To study different aspects related with ethnicity, race, identity, hybridity and European and Caribbean identities which are represented in the select fiction of Andrea Levy.
5) To study Andrea Levy as a multicultural writer.

HYPOTHESIS:

In the fiction of Andrea Levy, we come across the multicultural aspects like racism, Identity crisis and cultural hybridity that deal with multicultural social ethos in the Contemporary British society.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study will be based on library method and it employs a qualitative descriptive research design that embarked on a contextual and textual analysis of the selected literary text. Research Methodology consist the collection of primary sources and review of secondary resources. It involves the close reading of primary sources and critical analyses of selected fiction of Andrea Levy includes *The Long Song* (2010), *Small Island* (2004), *Fruit of the Lemon* (1999), *Never Far from Nowhere* (1996), *Every Light in the House Burnin* (1994) and *Six stories and an Essay (2014).* The theoretical framework consists of the brief review of the Black British Literature, Multiculturalism, Post-Colonial aspects in the Andrea Levy's fiction. For this study interpretative, analytical and evaluative methods will be used for the study. The researcher has read and interpreted relevant information from books, journals, articles related to this study. For this study the researcher can use Interview Method.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION:

Andrea Levy is a Black British Writer. She is an extraordinary prolific and versatile writer. Andrea Levy's fiction explores issues like racial, slavery, cultural and national identities. However, it is not possible to study her all work from these parameters. The focus will be laid on the following fiction of Andrea Levy.

1. *Every Light in the House Burnin' (1994)*
2. *Fruit of the Lemon (1999)*
3. *Never Far from Nowhere (1996)*
4. *Small Island (2004)*
5. *The Long Song (2010)*
6. *Six Stories and an Essay(2014)*

TENTATIVE SCHEME OF CHAPTER:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION:

a) Survey of Black British Literature.
b) Post-Colonialism
c) Literary career, Life and Work of Andrea Levy
d) Review of Literature on Andrea Levy.
e) Hypothesis
f) Methodology
g) Chapter Scheme

CHAPTER –II : MULTICULTURALISM : A THEORETICAL PREMISES

This chapter deals with the concept of multiculturalism, its definitions and meaning, major elements in Black- British Literature and theories. It also focuses on the features like race, identity, slavery, hybridity, multi-ethnicity, discrimination etc.

CHAPTER –III : RACISM IN THE FICTION OF ANDREA LEVY

This chapter deals with the treatment of racism as a multicultural aspect in the fiction of Andrea Levy.

CHAPTER –IV : IDENTITY CRISIS IN THE FICTION OF ANDREA LEVY

This chapter deals with the treatment of identity crisis as a multicultural aspect in the fiction of Andrea Levy.

CHAPTER –V : CULTURAL HYBRIDITY IN THE FICTION OF ANDREA LEVY

This chapter deals with the treatment of cultural hybridity as a multicultural aspect in the fiction of Andrea Levy.

CHAPTER –VI :CONCLUSIONS

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